Michigan muscles its way to program's 2nd national title
Page B1

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Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Niles Star

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Stranger Wine Company opens up a tasting room in Buchanan

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader correspondent

BUCHANAN — Stranger Wine Company is providing a space in downtown Buchanan for enjoying wine and honoring the processes that create it.

The tasting room for the family-owned micro-winery opened at 201 E. Front St. in August of 2025 as the latest evolution in winemaking for husband-and-wife Maxx Eichberg and Sidney Finan. Stranger was founded in 2021 with a mission to showcase the unique nature of Michigan grapes and prioritize the "agriculture to wine" process.

Just 10 minutes away from the tasting room at the Avonlea Estate vineyard, the duo is involved in the earliest moments of the winemaking process, growing the grapes that they eventually turn into a glass of wine served at the tasting room or in a bottle purchased by one of their customers.

The tasting room is set in the downtown building that once housed First National Bank in Buchanan. Though Finan and Eichberg had considered a tasting room on location at the vineyard, life events steered them to the cozy space in town.

Many of the original architectural features of the 1867 building remain, with minimal decor emphasizing the

See **TASTING**, page A6

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications
Stranger Wine Company's tasting room opened at 201 E. Front St. in Buchanan.

A novel adventure

Overdue Niles library book returned after 50-plus years of world travel

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A book has been returned to the Niles District Library more than 50 years past its due date after being spotted in a secondhand bookstore more than 3,500 miles away.

According to library officials, "The Groucho Letters'' by Groucho Marx, was found by a former librarian who volunteers at a secondhand bookstore on the Culzean Estate in Scotland. The book was published in 1967 and entered the library's collection sometime between then and 1973, when the Niles District Library was still the Niles Public Library (1904-1973).

In addition to the book, the volunteer also sent over Culzean Estate postcards and a hand-written letter.

"We were all definitely surprised," said NDL Administrative Manager Nicole Martin. "The circulation manager brought the mail over and said, 'You have mail from Scotland!' We crunched the numbers and they spent £18.35 to send it back to us, which is about $24. It's like something you see in a movie."

Culzean Castle was the stronghold of Clan Kennedy for roughly 800 years but is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland.

See **NOVEL**, page A4

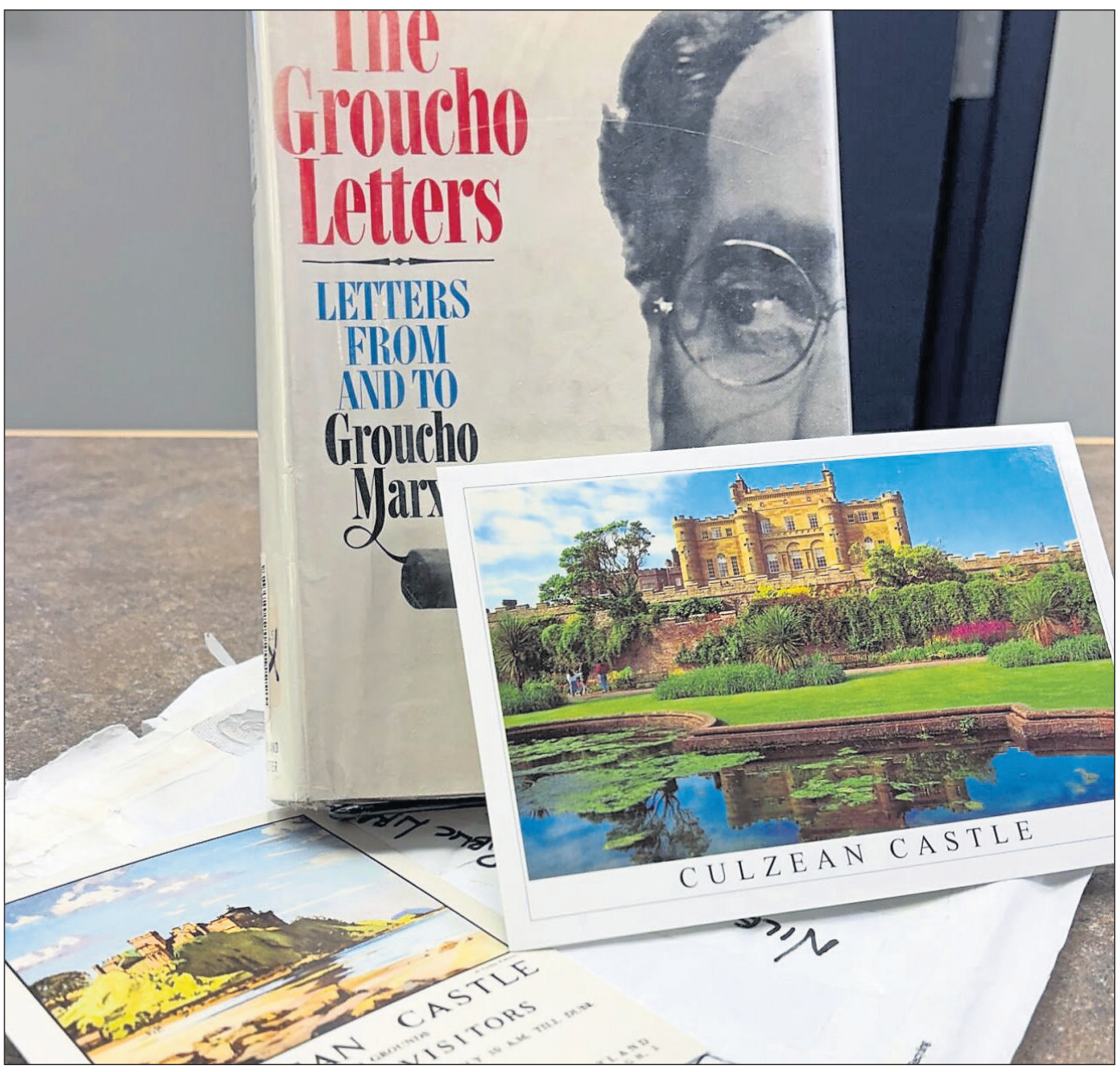

Photo provided
A copy of "The Groucho Letters" was returned to the Niles District Library more than 53 years after its due date. The book was found in the Culzean Estate in Scotland, more than 3,500 miles away.

Niles teen launches 'AI for Good Challenge'

SUBMITTED

NILES — Just before spring break, Niles High School's Student Council helped launch a new student-led initiative challenging classmates to use artificial intelligence for something bigger than schoolwork – making a real impact in their community.

The effort, called the "AI for Good Challenge," was created by freshman Samuel Lundberg, a Niles High School Student Council member who also attends the Berrien Math & Science Center. The challenge invites students to use AI tools to create projects that address real-world issues.

"As high school students, we are already using AI all the time – for homework help, studying for tests, or even improving in sports," Lundberg said. "So why not use AI to help make our community or school better?"

The challenge is open-ended by design. Students are asked to use AI in any way to address an issue they care about whether at home, at school or in the broader community and submit their projects this spring.

In its pilot year, the initiative is already gaining traction. Lundberg said students from three area high schools, including Niles, Buchanan and Countryside, have signed up to participate. Early project ideas range from improving study strategies and repurposing old electronics to reduce e-waste, to raising awareness about cancer and other causes.

For those unsure where to begin, Lundberg suggests starting simple.

"Ask AI for ideas, and I bet you'll get a few that really work," he said.

Lundberg is also participating in the challenge himself. His project focuses on raising awareness for multiple myeloma, a rare blood cancer. Using AI tools, he has developed poster concepts and social media messaging to help spread awareness.

"I didn't use AI to think

See **AI FOR GOOD**, page A4

Dr. Klint Pleasant is ready to 'listen and learn' as SMC president

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

PLEASANT

DOWAGIAC — It was a week filled with "firsts" for Dr. Klint Pleasant.

The new Southwestern Michigan College President started his role Monday, participated in his first board meeting Wednesday and made his first public appearance the same day at the grand opening ceremony for the wrestling expansion to the Charles O. Zollar Building.

"It's been fantastic," he said. "There was some pre-work involved; I did my research and spent time with the interim president, Brent Brewer, and the senior leadership team to get up to speed as quickly as possible. These first two and a half days have really been about meeting people, which has been the best part. I told my wife last night that it feels like I'm drinking from a firehose, but I'm looking forward to becoming part of this community."

A lifetime Michigander, Pleasant has worked in higher education for 28 years and has spent the last 20 years in administration. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Lipscomb University, a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Tennessee and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Strategic Change from Lipscomb University.

Prior to taking over at SMC, he served as the Senior Vice President and Special Assistant to the President at Rochester Christian University in Rochester Hills, Mich. Since 2005, Pleasant has spent time managing enrollment, development and athletics. Additionally, he has been involved with strategic planning, student mentoring, student retention and community relations. Lastly, he has served as an instructor in the classroom and is a published author.

In addition to Pleasant's expertise in higher education administration, he has also been a successful college basketball coach and was recently inducted into the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame. He is one of the top 25 winningest coaches in the NAIA and has captured numerous Coach of the Year awards while leading his teams to both conference and national championships. Pleasant's teams were known not only for their performance on the hardwood, but also in the classroom and in

See **PLEASANT**, page A5

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Henna Bosque
Phyllis Rogers
Billy Mattix
Patrick Parenti
Gertrude Scott
Judith Torbet
Dennis Shirk
Marlene Kime
Jody Carey
Terry Hess
Paige Butcher
Eleanor Moore
Fred Ross
Charles Watkins
Cody Pierson
Lorelei Smith
William White Jr.
Timothy C. Smith

Inside today's Herald-Palladium

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Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C7	Television	D3

Hiring, career fair coming to Lake Michigan College

By PMG STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Community members and Lake Michigan College students are invited to meet with employers and educators during the Red Hawk Future Fair next week.

The free hiring and career exploration open house, hosted by LMC, is being held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, on the LMC Benton Harbor Campus in Rooms L-310 and L-311.

According to a news release, more than 30 Southwest Michigan employers, who are actively recruiting for full- and part-time jobs as well as internships, will be on hand to discuss openings and career pathways within their organizations.

"We are glad to welcome so many organizations to campus who are committed to growing talent in our region. Whether you're just starting out or ready for your next step, this is a great chance to meet employers face to face and learn what's out there," said Kathi Szabo, a LMC student success coach, in a news release.

"We are glad to welcome so many organizations to campus who are committed to growing talent in our region. Whether you're just starting out or ready for your next step, this is a great chance to meet employers face to face and learn what's out there."

KATHI SZABO
LMC student success coach

Szabo said the fair is being held as part of LMC's Sustainability Week, adding a unique focus to this year's event. There is a special highlight on employers with sustainability initiatives and environmentally responsible practices. Attendees can learn how different industries are integrating sustainability into their operations and workforce practices.

Red Hawk Future Fair attendees can expect a free-flowing atmosphere where they can move between employer tables to learn about available positions. Opportunities are available across a number of industries including health care, human services, hospitality, construction and home improvement, manufacturing, local government, business and military.

University representatives will also be on hand to discuss available degree programs, campus information and application procedures for those looking to earn a bachelor's degree.

Businesses scheduled to participate include 1st Source Bank; American Red Cross of Michigan; Arrow Roofing; Artiflex Manufacturing, LLC; Beaudoin Electrical Construction; Berrien County Health Department; Berrien County Juvenile Center; Berrien County Road Department; Bronson Healthcare Group; CE Competitive Edge LLC; Corewell Health; Creative Landscaping & Design; Edustaff; Ernest Health; Fernwood Botanical Garden; FWF; Health Plus Indiana; Journeyman Distillery; Kent County; Laurel Oaks of South Haven; LOGAN Community Resources; Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development; North Star Reach; Paw Paw Lake Yacht Club; Pretty Inc.; Priority1; Saint Joseph Health System; Securitas USA – Kalamazoo branch; Sturgis Band and Trust Company; Telamon Corp.; Toast Hotel Group; Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center; and U.S. Marine Corps Officer Selection.

Transfer universities scheduled to participate include Andrews University; Bethel University; Central Michigan University; Davenport University; Eastern Michigan University; Ferris State University; Grand Valley State University; Indiana University – South Bend; Oakland University; Purdue University Northwest; University of Michigan – College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Valparaiso University; and Western Michigan University.

According to the news release, no registration is required for jobseekers. Attendees are encouraged to bring a resume and come prepared to discuss their availability and interests. The campus is located at 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Township. Free parking is available in the front student parking lot.

WEATHER

Today: Showers likely, mainly before 10a.m.. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 52. Southwest wind around 10 mph becoming northwest in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 33. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light in the evening.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 60. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2a.m.. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday: A slight chance of thunderstorms before 2p.m., then a chance of showers between 2p.m. and 5p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5p.m.. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8p.m., then showers likely between 8p.m. and 2a.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2a.m.. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Primitiv to host blood drive

NILES — Primitiv, in collaboration with Primitive Givs, is hosting a blood drive from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 17.

The event will take place at 1286 S. 11th St. Interested participants can sign up by visiting GiveBloodNow.com. Each donor will receive a raffle entry for a mystery "420 Grab Bag." Primitiv will also be providing Gatorade, water and snacks to keep donors hydrated and energized. The event will also feature a special guest appearance by co-founders and former Detroit Lions Calvin Johnson Jr. and Rob Sims, who will be on-site during the drive.

As part of the SBMF April Promotion, Rise'n Roll in Granger and Plymouth are helping sponsor the donor promotion for the month. Donors can receive a voucher for one free regular donut, valid at the Granger and Plymouth locations through June 30, 2026.

The South Bend Medical Foundation reminds donors to eat a healthy meal, drink plenty of water, and bring a photo ID to the event. They also suggest eating extra iron-rich foods the week before to help prevent deferral. For more information, follow @southbendmedicalfoundation on social media.

FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Congratulations to the Michigan basketball team on winning the national championship. An incredible team that was fun to watch.

■ Sure glad that my parents had the wisdom to protect me from once eradicated diseases like measles.

■ How come there were no phone warnings for the recent tornadoes?

■ SMC's new wrestling facility looks great. The athletes deserve it.

■ Go Blue. National basketball champs for the first time in 37 years.

■ It's time for new leadership and a new direction in Iran.

■ Thank you, Dowagiac Mayor Pat Bakeman for trying to get clarity on the data center.

■ Who loves the current situation this President has put Americans in? At what point will he take ownership of his actions and quit blaming others for things not going right?

■ I had the pleasure of meeting new SMC President Klint Pleasant this week. I think we have the right guy for the job.

Robert Clayton
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OBITUARIES

Phyllis Rogers

September 20, 1932 – April 3, 2026

Phyllis Lyle Rogers, 93, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026 in Buchanan, Michigan.

Phyllis was born on September 20, 1932 in Niles, Michigan to the late Carl E. Hess and Helena (Young) Hess. In addition to her parents, Phyllis was preceded in death by her loving husband of many years, William Warren Rogers.

Left to cherish the memory of Phyllis is her son, Timothy Rogers; daughter, Lynn Rogers (Tim Arnold); step-grandchildren, Tawni Estep, Dawna Schmidt, and Sami Lamar; brother Keith Hess (Roberta Hess), and several nieces and nephews. Phyllis graduated from Niles High School in 1950 where she developed lifelong friendships and worked at the soda fountain at Pat's Pharmacy. She then went on to attend Michigan State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1954.

On June 26, 1954, Phyllis married William "Bill" Warren Rogers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Niles, Michigan and they resided in Hawthorne, New York. Phyllis taught third grade for five years while Bill worked for the New York Central Railroad. In 1960, their son, Timothy was born. In 1962, Phyllis and Bill moved to Itasca, Illinois where Bill worked for the Milwaukee Railroad, and in 1963 their daughter, Lynn, arrived. With other job opportunities, the family moved to Lutherville, Maryland in 1969 and then to Silver Spring, Maryland in 1975, where Phyllis and Bill resided until just after his retirement in 1993. In 1997, Phyllis and Bill moved back to the home town of their youth, Niles, Michigan.

Throughout her life, Phyllis gave generously of her time and talents, caring for her family and managing the household. She was an active member in all the churches she attended as a Luther League leader, church teller, women's group leader, and always willing to lend a hand. Phyllis also volunteered in her community in her children's schools, hospital, AARP group, and nursing homes. She was a talented seamstress, creating with care and skill, clothing for her daughter and herself. She and Bill found joy in attending concerts, travelling, and getting together with friends. A devoted cat mom, she had a special love for her feline companions.

Above all, Phyllis cherished her family. They were the center of her world, and she loved the time spent together, creating lasting memories. She will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and the deep love she shared with those closest to her. Memorial contributions in honor of Phyllis may be made out to the First Presbyterian Church, 13 South Fourth St, Niles, Michigan, 49120. Visitation Phyllis will be on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm with a Memorial Service to be held at 2:00pm at First Presbyterian Church, 13 South Fourth St. Niles, Michigan 49120.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Phyllis' family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Jody Corey

Jody A. Corey

Jody A. Corey, 61, of Dowagiac, passed away peacefully on Monday morning, April 6, 2026, at her home, surrounded by the love of her family. Jody was born on July 25, 1964, in Dowagiac, to Robert and Norma (Glass) Jessup.

A proud graduate of Dowagiac Union High School, Class of 1983, she went on to pursue an education in fashion merchandising – something that would remain a signature part of who she was. Jody had a truly eclectic sense of style, always expressing herself with creativity. On December 10, 1988, she married the love of her life, Randall "Randy" Corey. Together, they built a life centered on their beautiful family, sharing 37 years of marriage.

Jody dedicated much of her career to the banking industry, spending over 20 years with Huntington Bank. In 2019, she joined G.W. Jones Bank, where she quickly became a cherished member of the team. She genuinely loved her work family and formed many lasting friendships with both coworkers and members of the community she served. Outside of work, Jody was a loyal fan of Dowagiac High School football and University of Michigan football,

always cheering on her teams with enthusiasm. She had a love for thrifting and shopping, always on the hunt for something unique – just like her. Above all else, Jody's greatest joy in life was her family. She was a devoted wife, a proud and loving mother, and a deeply cherished grandmother. She took immense pride in the daughters she raised and treasured every moment spent with them and her granddaughter. Jody is survived by her beloved husband, Randy Corey; her daughters, Megan Corey and Erin (Scott Bass) Corey; and her precious granddaughter, Mae Davis. She is also survived by her brothers, Charles (Kathryn)

Jessup and Bryan (Kathleen) Jessup; her nieces and nephews, Chuckie (Sherri) Jessup, Tyrone (Jennifer) Jessup, Sara (Kate Crane) Jessup, Meredith Jessup, David (Whitney) Jessup, and Matthew (Kristy Aho) Jessup; along with several great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Carolyn Jessup; and her longtime friend, Margie Crouch. Jody will be remembered for her kind heart, her unique spirit, and the deep love she had for those around her. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to live on in all who knew her. A service to celebrate Jody's life will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 12, at Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with her family from 12:00 PM until the time of service. Rev. Jeffrey Freshette Sr. of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Flint, MI, will officiate. Private family interment will be in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens, Niles. Memorial contributions in Jody's name may be directed to Helping Hands of Cass County. Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Jody's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Gertrude Scott

December 13, 1929 – April 1, 2026

Gertrude J. Scott, 96, of Dowagiac, passed away peacefully on Wednesday afternoon, April 1, 2026, at Forest Glen Assisted Living in Dowagiac. She was born on December 13, 1929, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to John Sr. and Elsie (Doorlag) Van Den Berg. On September 16, 1950, she married the love of her life, Kenneth W. Scott, beginning a partnership that would span many cherished years.

Gertrude dedicated 37 years of her life to Dowagiac Public Schools, where she was a familiar and trusted presence until her retirement. Outside of work, she found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved gathering around the table for a good card game – especially bridge – often sharing laughter and friendly competition with family and friends.

An avid reader and traveler, she enjoyed both quiet moments with a good book and adventures that took her beyond her hometown. Gertrude was especially gifted with her hands. She spent countless hours sewing, quilting, knitting, and cross-stitching, creating pieces that will continue to warm and comfort her loved ones for years to come.

In her retirement, she gave back to her community by volunteering at Borgess Lee Hospital's gift shop, where she proudly sold her handmade dishcloths. She also had a playful side and took great delight in playing the Michigan Lottery – particularly her beloved scratch-offs – always hopeful for a lucky win. Above all, Gertrude's greatest joy was her family. She treasured every moment spent with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who will remember her for her warmth, her creativity, and the love she so freely gave.

She is lovingly survived by her children, Brenda Kroepel and David (LuAnn) Scott; her grandchildren, Marci (Darin) Payne, Jeffrey (Chris) Kroepel, Jennifer (Greg) Wilson, Megan (Michael) Johnson, and Kenneth Scott; and her eleven great-grandchildren, Drew, Aaron, Zach, Kendall, Ella, Addison, Alivia, Hunter, Penelope, Avery, and Emilia. She is also survived by her sisters, Grace VanderWeele and Carol Nord; her brother, John Van Den Berg Jr.; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Kenneth Scott; her parents, John and Elsie Van Den Berg; and her sisters, Harriet Smith, Johanna Schreuder, and Alice VanBeck.

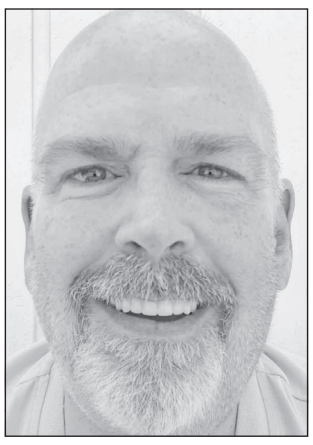
Gertrude will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for her gentle spirit, her talents, and the love she shared with all who knew her. Honoring Gertrude's wishes, cremation has taken place. Her family will celebrate her life privately, remembering her warmth, her quiet strength, and the love she gave so freely.

Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac.

Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Gertrude's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Fredrick Ross Jr.

May 4, 1955 – April 3, 2026



Frederick "Fred" William Ross Jr., 70, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on April 3, 2026. He was born on May 4, 1955, in St. Joseph, Michigan, to Frederick William Ross Sr. and Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Ross (Durham).

Fred was a familiar and friendly presence in the Niles community. He spent much of his time at Hot Dogs Plus, where he became a regular in every sense of the word. He knew everyone, and everyone knew him. Whether you stopped in for a quick bite or stayed awhile, Fred was always ready with a story, a conversation, or a laugh. He had a gift for talking with people and never met a stranger.

Fred truly enjoyed staying connected with friends, especially through Facebook, where he kept up with the lives of those he cared about. His companionship and loyalty extended beyond people as well, especially to his beloved cat, Gypsy, who brought him comfort and joy over the years.

Fred is survived by his sister, Linda Reed; his brother, Leonard Ross; his five nieces, Kara, Kourtney, Tamara, Tracy, and Nicole; as well as his niece, Erika, and nephews, Brendon and Heath. He also leaves behind his longtime best friend, Ron Dash, who was always there to lend a hand and share in life's moments. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Dwayne Curey; and his brothers, Larry Ross and Michael Ross.

Fred will be remembered for his friendly nature, his stories, and the simple way he connected with those around him. His presence will be deeply missed by all who had the chance to know him. In honor of Fred's love for animals, memorial contributions may be made to Pet Refuge, a no-kill animal shelter located at 4626 South Burnett Drive, South Bend, Indiana 46614.

Dennis Shirk

August 20, 1948 – March 19, 2026

Dennis Shirk, 77, of Niles, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 19, 2026. His life began on August 20, 1948, in Grundy Center, Iowa, the fourth of six children born to Delbert and Betty Shirk. On April 14, 1969, Dennis married the love of his life, Rosemary Siemens, in Garwin, Iowa. Together, they built a beautiful life defined by devotion and adventure.

Dennis's family was the "apple of his eye." He took great pride in providing for them, even purchasing seven acres of land to ensure his family had a safe, private place to swim, play, and gather. A dedicated worker, his career took him to many places, but he always found time for joy. He and Rosemary loved traveling with their close-knit group of friends and shared a lifelong passion for music – especially hard rock.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 57 years, Rosemary Shirk; his children, Philip (Anita) Shirk of Niles, Paul (Gwen) Shirk of Niles, Bertina Shreve of Niles, and Melinda Shreve of South Bend, Indiana; and his sisters, Priscilla Crumbly of Gladbrook, Iowa, Janet Dolezal of Toledo, Iowa, and Lisa (Chris) Stanley of Marshalltown, Iowa. His legacy lives on through eleven grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Delbert and Betty Shirk; his brother, Morris Shirk; and his sister, Cathy Niedermann.

Family and friends will gather on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan 49120. Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online at: halbritterwickens.com.

Paige Butcher

June 25, 1985 – April 6, 2026

Paige Nicole "Elizabeth" Butcher, 40, of Cassopolis, died Monday, April 6, 2026 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her life began June 25, 1985 in Blytheville, Arkansas born to Todd Sr. and Stacey Vaughn. She married Lance Butcher May 9, 2002 in Cassopolis, Michigan.

Paige was a loving mother and grandmother. She adored her first grandson Benny and would spend as much time with him as she could. Paige found the love of her life in Lance. In any situation, her daughters were her first thought. Paige was self-less, putting everyone else before her. She had a devotion to God and her faith led her through her life.

Paige was taken from us too soon by cancer. She leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and unwavering devotion that touched all who knew her. Paige will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Lance Butcher of Cassopolis; three daughters, Taylor Butcher, Bethany Butcher, Lacey Butcher, all of Cassopolis; one grandson, Benny Lopez; two brothers, Todd Vaughn, Adrian Vaughn and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; and close friends and parental figures, Bobby (Reggie) Stevens. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

Family and friends will gather Thursday April 9, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of her service at 12:00 noon. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Paige will be laid to rest in Calvin Township Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Hena Bosque

January 17, 1930 – December 17, 2025

Hena Maria Cintra Bosque, loving wife, mother, sister and friend, passed onto the heartwarming arms of God on December 17, 2025, at home in Wheaton, Illinois. Born on January 17, 1930, in Caibarien, Cuba, a graduate of El Colegio Baldor and Universidad de La Habana.

Predeceased by her husband, Joaquin Eugenio Bosque Cardenas. Survived by her children, sons, Santiago Javier, Joaquin Ignacio and Jorge Luis; and daughters, Ana Maria Nelson, husband David, and Lourdes Maria Snellgrose, husband Glenn.

A multitude of caring grandchildren and great grandchildren have received her guidance, love and warmth throughout her years. Compassion driven and determination lead her Postgraduate Master of Psychology engagements as an educator in Cuba as well as Adult Education in Niles for Spanish students to learn the English language, adult English-speaking to pursue Spanish and Special Education needs for children.

Community service and long-term member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Interment will begin 3:00pm on April 24, 2026, at Calvary Cemetery with a gathering at St. Mary's Parish Center afterwards.

Death notices

Charles Doyle Watkins, 81, passed away Friday, April 3, 2026, in Mishawaka, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Cody Lee Pierson, 35, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Lorelei Joann Smith, 86, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

William White Jr., 60, of South Bend, formerly of Niles, passed away at his residence on April 1, 2026. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneral HomeNiles.com.

Timothy C. Smith, 57, of Niles, passed away on April 2, 2026 in Niles. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.Brown FuneralHomeNiles.com.

See more obituaries on page A4

Patrick Parenti

July 20, 1944 – April 1, 2026

Patrick E. Parenti, 81, of Eau Claire, MI, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at Corewell Niles Hospital, Niles, MI. He was born on July 20, 1944 in Chicago, IL, the son of the late Peter and Stephanie (Suatrin) Parenti. On November 16, 1996, he was united in marriage to Rosemarie (Czyzewski) Paluck, who preceded him in death on August 22, 2024.

Also preceding him in death were his parents; and one brother, Paul Parenti. Patrick and Rose loved their home and friends at Indian Lake. They enjoyed traveling together and spending time with friends and family. Surviving are his two sons and their families, Kenneth Parenti and Jeffrey Parenti; step-children, Daniel (Trisha) Paluck and Victoria (Charles) Clarkson; and four step-grandchildren, Tylor Paluck, Nicholas Paluck, Andrew Clarkson and Emily Clarkson.

A service to celebrate Patrick's life was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, April 10, at Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac. Pastor Stacey Wilder, of Calvary Bible Church, will officiate. Memorial contributions in Patrick's name may be directed to a charity of one's choice. Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Patrick's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

OBITUARIES

Judith Torbet

February 27, 1949 – March 28, 2026

Judith Elaine Torbet, 77, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Saturday, March 28, 2026 in the comfort of her family's presence. Her life began February 27, 1949 in Dowagiac, Michigan the second youngest of six children born to Clifford and Marvel DeGraff. She had a spirit that was both adventurous and deeply rooted in the simple joys of life.

An avid mushroom hunter, she could spot morels like hidden treasure – often better than anyone else – and there was nothing she loved more than being outdoors, whether fishing, camping, or spending time in Northern Michigan, where she felt most at peace. Her home on Priest lake in Sister Lakes was especially dear to her, a place filled with memories, laughter, and the people she loved most. She had a sharp wit and a natural gift for storytelling, often sharing tales – especially about her grandchildren and great grandchildren – with anyone willing to listen.

Music was almost always playing when you walked into her home, and she had a way of truly listening – often pointing out meaningful lyrics or lines that stuck with her. It was part of what made her such a thoughtful observer of life, and likely what inspired her love of writing poetry, where she could put her own thoughts and feelings into words. She loved a good joke and was just as quick to tell one as she was to laugh, bringing lightness and joy wherever she went.

She was incredibly proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy and were among her greatest blessings. She also had a competitive streak and a keen mind, which made her a formidable poker player at the Moose Lodge in Elkhart, Indiana. She took pride in her memory and her ability to keep up with anyone at the table – and often outplayed them.

Just as meaningful to her were the friendships she built around those tables, cherishing the time, laughter, and connections she shared with the people she played cards with in Elkhart. She enjoyed keeping up with the weather in Las Vegas, a place she loved to visit, always looking forward to her next trip and likely keeping a closer eye on the forecast than most locals. No matter where she was, she carried herself with care and took pride in always being well put together.

A close loved one once said that if a life could be measured by how your children turn out, Judy did an exceptional job – and her children prove that every day. It's a reflection of the love, strength, and values she carried with her throughout her life.

Above all, she cherished her family and friends deeply. Her warmth, humor, and love will be remembered by all who knew her. Judy will be greatly missed by family and friends.

She is survived by daughters, Krin (Darby) Smith of Dowagiac, Darcy Bornas of Lawton; sons, James (Jen) Torbet of Dowagiac, Robert (Brie) Torbet of Elkhart; stepson, Kory (Carmen) Torbet of Homer; son-in-law, Douglas Bornas of Lawton; grandchildren, Brooke (Daniel) Thomas of Dowagiac, Brittany (Brandon) Villarreal of Lincoln, Nebraska, Thomas Smith of Dowagiac, Brennan Bornas, Brady Bornas, Brenden Bornas, all of Lawton, Sara Torbet, Jillian Torbet, both of Dowagiac, Lanie Mattix-Gist, Rheana Mattix-Gist, both of Dowagiac; Zoe Torbet of Elkhart, Davis Torbet, Elease Torbet, both of Homer; great grandchildren, Harper, Landon; brother, Larry (Susan) DeGraff of Niles; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Rochelle Mattix; stepson, Kirby Torbet; sisters, Gloria Collins, Joyce Pond, Linda Gaideski; brother, Lonny DeGraff.

The family will observe a private remembrance. The family prefers contributions in memory of Judy be made to Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Eleanor Moore

December 21, 1927 – April 7, 2026

Eleanor Moore, 98, of Dowagiac, Michigan, entered into Glory on April 7, 2026, at her home, surrounded by family. She was born in Niles on December 21, 1927, to the late Elmer J. and Amanda (Egmer) Fisher.

Eleanor's faith in Christ guided her every step. She was a devoted member of First Christian Church in Dowagiac where she served in many leadership positions. On June 6, 1946, Eleanor married Dick Monroe Hass. She became a hardworking "farmer's wife," and had 6 beautiful children. Later, she and Dick became realtors for United Farm Agency, selling farms and lake property in Cass and adjoining counties.

In 1965, Dick passed away suddenly, and Eleanor raised their children on her own. When Southwestern Michigan College opened, she was hired as a library assistant. She retired after serving in that position for 20 years. On March 17, 1974, Eleanor married Woodrow "Bud" Moore. They were married for 29 years before Bud passed away in 2002.

She was a prize-winning quilter, and enjoyed baking, crocheting, and crafting of all kinds. She handmade beautiful christening gowns for many of her great granddaughters. Eleanor was very involved in the Cass County Fair, where she served as a 4-H leader. She received the Homemaker of the Year award in 1992, and was also a lifetime member of the Community Grange #1675. She loved working in the Grange booth restaurant at the fair every year.

In 1996, Eleanor and Bud were honored to be inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her siblings, Marjorie Lee and Robert Fisher. She will be lovingly remembered by her children: Ruth Ann (Richard) Porter, Dean (Glenda) Hass, Bill (Cheri) Hass, Rick (Jill) Hass, Tom (Lori) Hass, Ellen (Allen) Schmidt, and stepson, Don (Marcia) Moore. She is also survived by 22 grandchildren and 54 great-grandchildren, all of whom will cherish her memory and carry on her remarkable legacy.

She will be remembered for her extraordinary strength and unwavering faith. Her family takes comfort in knowing that she is safe in the arms of Jesus, and that they will be reunited in Heaven. A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 2 at First Christian Church, 201 Oak Street, Dowagiac. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be directed to Michigan State Grange Foundation, Cass County Hospice, Inc., or First Christian Church of Dowagiac.

Billy Mattix

October 8, 1943 – April 3, 2026

Billy "Frances" Mattix, 82, of Dowagiac, passed away peacefully early Friday morning, April 3, 2026, at her son's home in Coloma, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on October 8, 1943, in Desha, Arkansas, Frances was the daughter of Woodrow and Edna (Dawson) Hunter. On June 9, 1962, she married the love of her life, Wayne K. Mattix, beginning a devoted partnership that would span nearly six decades. Together, they built a life centered on faith, family, and caring for others.

Frances had a gentle and nurturing spirit that shined through in her work as a teacher's aide with Dowagiac Public Schools, where she touched the lives of many children over the years. She was a faithful and active member of Pleasant View Church of Christ, where her kindness and quiet strength were felt by all who knew her. She also enjoyed the fellowship of the Dowagiac Chapter #1508 Women of the Moose.

At home, Frances found joy in the simple pleasures – sewing, knitting, and crocheting beautiful pieces for those she loved. Her hands were rarely still, and her creations were often gifts made from the heart. More than anything, she cherished time spent with her family. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren were her pride and joy, and she treasured every moment she was able to share with them.

She is lovingly remembered by her children, Michael (Tracy) Mattix and Melissa Mattix; her grandchildren, Kaitlin (Zac) Pierce, Rebecca (Tony) Thar, Courtney (Sean) Hennen, Cierra (Brendan) McCaffrey, and Kenneth Isaac Mattix; and her eleven great-grandchildren, Abbi and Parker Pierce, Mattix and Taylor Thar, Foster and Demi Hennen, and Logan, Bryon, Jonathan, Killian, and Neila McCaffrey.

She is also survived by her brother, Wilson "Pete" (Linda) Hunter, along with several nieces and nephews. Frances was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 59 years, Wayne; her parents; her brothers, Thomas and Willie Hunter; and her sister, Margaret Lee. Frances will be remembered for her loving heart, her steady faith, and the warmth she brought into the lives of those around her. Her legacy lives on in the family she cherished so deeply.

A service to celebrate Frances' life will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, April 13, at Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with her family from 1:00 PM until the time of service. Pastor Jeff Oliver will officiate. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. Memorial contributions in Frances' name may be directed to Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org).

Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Frances' personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Marlene Kime

June 21, 1943 – March 28, 2026

Marlene Donaghe Kime, 82, of Niles Michigan died March 28, 2026, after a brief illness. Marlene was born 6/2$^{1}/_{4}$3 to Leroy and Ruth (Parker) Holtz and lived in Niles her entire life where she raised her daughter Lisa with her first husband Jim Donaghe. She held several positions in banking, later moving into telecommunications until her retirement from ATT.

Reunited later in life, Marlene and Denny Kime were married in Las Vegas, NV in 2002 and spent many wonderful years together traveling and attending live music performances, seeing hundreds of musical groups over the joyful decades they had together.

Her garden gave her much pleasure and spring was her favorite season as everything awakened after the long winter. Thankfully she was able to enjoy spring in New Mexico this year before she passed. She was an avid book reader, and the Michigan Talking Book Library service was a great help to her in her later years. She thrived when visiting with family and friends and was able to remain at home and active thanks to their love and support.

Marlene is survived by her daughter Lisa Donaghe, her sister Carol (Bill) Needham and Carol's children Christine (Marcus) Johnson and Michael (Lisa) Needham. She was preceded in death by her husband Denton (Denny) Kime. A Memorial Service will be held at the old chapel at Mission Hills Cemetery in Niles Saturday May 9th, 11 a.m. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Terry Hess

August 4, 1968 – March 30, 2026

Terry Anthony Hess, 57, of Niles, died peacefully Monday, March 30, 2026. His life began August 4, 1968 in South Bend, Indiana the middle of three children born to Joe Sr. and Irene Hess.

Terry was a simple man. He had a passion for rock 'n' roll music, sweets, and peanut butter. He cherished his daughter, Sandy. Terry will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his father, Joe Hess Sr. of Niles; daughter, Sandra (Dustin) Northrop of Edwardsburg; three grandchildren, Shayla, Taiden, Riley; sister, Melissa Hudgen of South Bend, Indiana; brother, Joe (Julie) Hess Jr. of Niles; nieces and nephews, Joseph III (Lauren) Hess, Catlyn Hudgen, Derek Hess, Abigail Hess, and Brice Hudgen. He was preceded in death by his mother and maternal and paternal grandparents.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 12:00 noon in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles. The family would like to thank every person that cared for and worked with Terry the last few years. He had a genuine love and appreciation of them all. Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

See more obituaries on page A3

NOVEL

From page A1

The Estate's donation-run bookstore has been open for 18 years, and in that time, has raised about £500,000, approximately $661,780.

"We were all definitely surprised," Martin said. "The circulation manager brought the mail over and said, 'You have mail from Scotland!'"

"She took the time to write us such a nice letter," said NDL Adult Services Team Leader Crystal Gleason. "We are going to send a postcard back to Scotland to thank them for returning our book."

While the library's overdue fee at the time of check-out and the exact check-out date are both unknown, the current fee for an overdue book is $0.15 per day. Using that rate, the overdue book's late fee would be approximately $3,000 today. Due to its age and condition, the book will not be added to the library's collection and will likely be available for purchase during the library's next book sale.

AI FOR GOOD

From page A1

for me," he said. "It helped me find facts to support my own ideas."

Lundberg said the current school year serves as a test run, with plans to expand the challenge in the future.

"AI is becoming more powerful every day," he said. "Students have a choice, they learn how to use it in meaningful ways, or risk being left behind by those who do."

His message reflects a broader shift happening in local classrooms. Last fall, more than 1,000 teachers from across Berrien County participated in a professional development workshop that included sessions focused on artificial intelligence and how it can be used in schools.

He also credited Niles High School Student Council advisors and teachers at the Berrien Math & Science Center for supporting the initiative and helping bring the idea to life.

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $15. Extended obituaries are priced based on character count.

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PLEASANT

From page A1

the community.

For Pleasant, seeing the school's investment in athletics as a means to bolster the student experience is a positive.

"While I've been involved in athletics for a long time, my primary responsibilities in higher education over the past 20 years have been in administration," he said. "However, seeing that investment was definitely attractive. I'm very comfortable in an athletic setting, and I believe in using athletics to leverage enrollment growth and create a collegiate atmosphere across campus. Seeing that focus was a perfect fit."

Pleasant said that he fell in love with the SMC during his first visit.

"It was really when I visited and walked around the campus that I fell in love with the place," he said. "There is a pervasive 'feel' here that both my wife and I sensed. We decided to make this our home, and I am honored the Board of Trustees has given me this opportunity. It's a big task and a big job, but it's one I look forward to, and I can assure you it will get my full effort."

Pleasant managed a transition at RCU, transforming the athletic department into an extension of the enrollment office. Under his leadership, the student-athlete population grew from 135 to 430, growing the athletic department from eight varsity sports to 23 and bringing critical net tuition revenue dollars to the institution. He also led the Enrollment Office to its highest headcount total in the 65-year history of the institution, while also maintaining a fundraising portfolio and securing multiple major gifts over the years. He and his wife have a passion for the arts and appreciate the importance of performing and visual arts on SMC's campus.

Immediate priorities include year-end academic activities leading to the 59th Commencement May 9 in Alumni Plaza, finalizing FY 2027 budgets, working with the Senior Leadership Team on April 14 to "synthesize" notes he took at strategic planning and traveling to Lansing April 16 with Vice President for the Student Experience Dr. Katie Hannah and mascot Ronnie the Roadrunner for Capitol Day.

Pleasant looks forward to getting to know students, staff, faculty and alumni and said his current goal is to "listen and learn."

"SMC is the sixth university I've been a part of; I've worked in higher education for 28 years, so I'm not a stranger to the field, but I am new to SMC. Job number one is to seek to understand before I seek to be understood. Once I feel comfortable that I've done enough learning, I'll look to implement my own perspective and leadership style. Obviously, we are going to focus on enrollment, fiscal health, and the student experience.

"Those are the big pillars of higher education, and they will be important here."

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Dr. Klint Pleasant addresses the crowd Wednesday during the grand opening ceremony for the wrestling expansion to the Charles O. Zollar Building at SMC.

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TASTING

From page A1

beauty of the structure and creating a sense of home. A leather couch and small book shelf invite visitors to enjoy the sunshine and views of downtown, while the record player and game shelf provide family-friendly interaction and entertainment. The upstairs vault has been utilized as a retail space for bottles of wine, Stranger merchandise, and handcrafted products by other artisans operating with a similar philosophy as Finan and Eichberg.

"We really wanted it to feel like people were getting an opportunity to sit down with us in our house," Sidney said.

The custom built bar is where the wine adventure begins. At any given time, a curated selection of five wines are available, with options for tasting or purchasing a glass. For those interested, Maxx is ready to dive as deep as they desire into what's in the stemmed glass and where it originated. Even when the tasting room is busy, their goal is to provide each customer with curated one-on-one experience.

"We like to present our wine in a way that is elegant without being pretentious about it," Finan said.

Eichberg brings over a decade of experience in the industry to his wine, having worked in several wine regions across the country while Finan caught the agriculture bug while working for an organic farm. They had been in the midst of fulfilling a dream to travel and work in the various American growing regions when the COVID-19 pandemic forced them to pivot. With Michigan's emerging wine industry always on their radar, Maxx found work in the state before the couple had the opportunity to buy the vineyard in 2021. With contacts in the restaurant industry, they were able to build a quick following for their creations.

Almost all of the wine made by Stranger comes from a single grape and a single vineyard, with minimal intervention. The Stranger team farms organically and regeneratively, utilizing hand labor, grazing sheep, and biological fungicides to avoid herbicides and synthetic pesticides. Their goal is both sustainability, but also showcasing the quality of Michigan grapes.

"These wines deserve respect," said Maxx of Michigan products.

Stranger Wine Company wants to challenge visitors to expand their wine taste while also meeting them where their tastes lie and, hopefully, sending them away with a bit more knowledge. They have created a space for judgement-free exploration of wine. Their goals match that from which they draw their name, the absurdist philosophies of Albert Camus and the concept that one must create their own meaning in life.

"We want to let people learn, relax, drink wine and chill," Maxx said.

Information about Stranger Wine Company can be found at strangerwineco.com.

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Sports

Notre Dame's Hidalgo set to return for senior season
Page B3

Got results?
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SMC celebrates new wrestling facility

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College celebrated four years of athletic success with a grand opening ceremony for the wrestling expansion to the Charles O. Zollar Building.

Dozens of staff, faculty, students, alumni and more attended the event, which featured words from Athletic Director Roddell Davis, President Dr. Klint Pleasant and SMC Senior VP and Chief Strategy Officer Brent Brewer as well as two-time U.S. Olympian Kayla Miracle.

"I want to thank everyone for your support of the Road Runner program," said Athletic Director Roddell Davis. "It means the world to our staff and our student athletes. When you donate to scholarships, show up for our home and away games and cheer for us, wear SMC gear and get invested in our teams, our young men and women do notice. It's gratifying seeing their hard work and practice in the classroom recognized on game day."

The new 11,195-square-foot wing of the Zollar Building quadruples the space available to the men's and women's wrestling teams. It will double the mat capacity for practice sessions and provide additional competition space for hosting conference and regional meets. The new facility will also include a dedicated fitness and warm-up area, coaches' offices, locker rooms and additional restrooms.

See **WRESTLING**, page B2

BASKETBALL

Victors

Michigan muscles past UConn for second national championship

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

AP Photo / Michael Conroy

Members of Michigan celebrate after defeating UConn in the NCAA college basketball tournament national championship game at the Final Four, Monday, April 6, 2026, in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS — This title for Michigan's newest Fab Five will look better in the trophy case than a time capsule.

Hard to be too picky – this new-age group of ballers in maize and blue showed they can win any which way.

The five fabulous transfers who make up coach Dusty May's starting lineup got down and dirty with the rest of the Wolverines to dig out the national championship on Monday. Michigan made only two 3-pointers all night but still muscled its way to a 69-63 victory over stingy, stubborn UConn.

Elliot Cadeau led the Wolverines with 19 points, including the team's first 3, which came 7:04 into the second half. The second, from freshman Trey McKenney, came with 1:50 left and felt like a dagger, giving May's team – which had scored 90 points in five straight March Madness games leading to the final – a nine-point lead.

Though the shooting wasn't great, this marked the fourth straight game in which Michigan has held its opponent to a season-low field goal percentage. UConn shot 30.9 percent.

"These guys have done it all year," May said. "When one side of the ball has let us down, the other side has picked it up. Our togetherness defensively ultimately got us over the hump."

To no one's surprise, UConn fought to the finish. Solo Ball banked in a 3 to cut it to four with 37 seconds left – and after two missed free throws, UConn's Alex Karaban (17 points) barely grazed the rim on a 3 that would've cut the deficit to one with 17 seconds left.

Michigan also got outrebounded 22-12 on the offensive glass by a UConn team that would not go away.

Not until McKenney sank two free throws to bring Michigan's shooting from the line to 25 for 28 for the night could the Wolverines (37-3) kick off the celebration for the program's second title – the other coming in 1989, a few years before the Fab Five arrived and made two trips to the Final, but never won a title.

This game, though, had a 1950s feel to it.

Michigan had to fight for everything. The Wolverines missed their first 11 shots from 3, finished 2 for 15 beyond the arc and won despite the struggles of their best player, Yaxel Lendeborg. Ailing with a hurt knee and foot that kept him from elevating, the graduate transfer from UAB finished with 13 points on 4-of-13 shooting.

"If you'd told me we would shoot it this poorly and (be) dominated on the glass and still find a way to win, I don't know if I would have believed you," May said. "This team just found a way all season."

Truth be told, it wasn't anyone's prettiest night.

UConn's hopes of becoming the first team since John Wooden's UCLA dynasty to win three titles in four seasons came up short, done in by massive foul trouble and its own terrible shooting.

Coach Dan Hurley's team missed its first 11 shots from 3 in the second half.

Braylon Mullins, the hero of the Duke win that put UConn in the Final Four, finished 4 of 17, though he made a pair of late 3s that kept the game in reach.

UConn (34-6) covered the 6 1/2-point spread, and Hurley kept his players out on the court to watch the podium get set up for the presentation of a trophy heading not to Storrs, but Ann Arbor.

About the only consolation: The Huskies clogged things up, slowed things down, and made Michigan beat them at their game.

See **VICTORS**, page B2

Michigan basketball is ready to build 'dynasty'

John Niyo

Terry Mills knew he had a front-row seat to watch history being made Monday night.

But he also had an invitation earlier in the day to share some of his own history, as Dusty May invited one of the stars from Michigan's 1989 national championship team to speak to the current squad hours before they faced Connecticut in the national title game.

The 58-year-old Mills, now an analyst for UM radio broadcasts, said he kept the message "short and sweet," talking about what that '89 championship meant to him and his teammates – some would be among the crowd of 70,720 at Lucas Oil Stadium that night – and the lifelong bonds that magical season created.

"And then I just told them I loved 'em," the Romulus, Mich., native added, "and I said, 'You guys have made me proud. Let's go out and finish the deal.' "

That message was just one of many that resonated with this tight-knit group, which rolled to a runaway Big Ten regular-season title, a program-record 37 wins and – finally, after 37 years – that elusive second national title for the Wolverines.

See **NIYO**, page B2

SOFTBALL

Edwardsburg, Niles split doubleheader

By BOB OPPENHEIM
roppenheim@elkharttruth.com

EDWARDSBURG — Edwardsburg's softball team struck out only once and consistently made solid contact in the second game of their Wolverine Conference doubleheader Wednesday against Niles.

That and some poor Vikings' defense helped the Eddies win 11-1 and salvage a split. Niles won the opener, 8-5.

Tori Pulling's two-run single in the bottom of the fifth gave Edwardsburg a mercy-rule win in the nightcap.

The win improved the Eddies to 3-1 in the league and overall.

"I'm really proud of them for fighting back," said first-year Edwardsburg coach Ali Kozinski. "We talked a lot about being mentally tough (after game one) and making sure the first game didn't affect the second game."

Four Viking errors led to 10 unearned runs being scored by the Eddies.

Four of those unearned runs came in the first inning. After Edwardsburg scored two runs on a Niles error with two outs, Grace Reid delivered a two-run single to give the Eddies a 4-0 lead.

The Eddies added five runs on four hits in the third, with four of those runs being unearned, as the Vikings committed two errors. Kendal Hulett's two-run homer gave Edwardsburg a 9-0 lead. Macie Doncilovic's RBI single and a Niles error gave the Eddies a 6-0 advantage.

"Our bats came alive (in the second game) and our girls really supported each other out there," Kozinski said. "I'm really proud of them for that."

Kozinski was pleased that her team added runs after Niles mistakes.

"We had to keep going," she said. "Niles is our rival. We wanted to keep the bats hot. We're still working out some kinks. I'm glad we could keep things going and put together a couple rallies."

Edwardsburg finished the second game with nine hits, with freshman Olivia Jamison leading the way with two. She also walked and was hit by a pitch in the second game.

"She's been impressing us every single day and been getting better every day," Kozinski said about Jamison. "She's earned her spot out here and she fights just as hard as our juniors and seniors."

In the second game, the Eddies also got a strong pitching performance from Kayla Heflin. Over five innings, she allowed no earned runs, four hits, struck out four and walked none.

See **SPLIT**, page B2

Elkhart Truth Photo / J. Tyler Klassen

Niles' Emerlin Bailey is tagged out by Edwardsburg catcher Ella Zache during the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader spilt.

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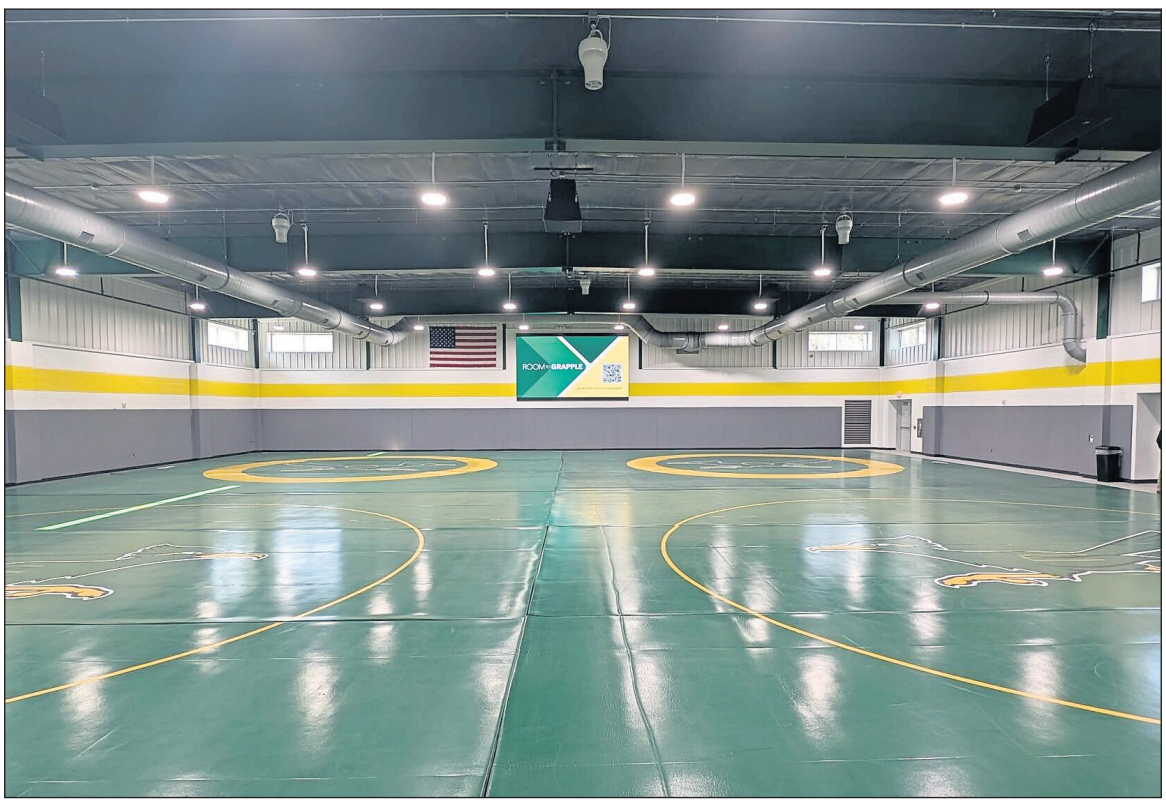
WRESTLING

From page B1

"This is really just the latest step in expanding opportunities for students all over campus, which for those of us who serve SMC as employees, we are thinking about every day," said SMC Senior VP and Chief Strategy Officer Brent Brewer.

The completion of the Zollar expansion is the first phase of SMC's Room To Grow Campaign – an approximately $11 million capital campaign launched by the college in partnership with the Southwestern Michigan College Foundation – which includes upgrades to the Dale A. Lyons Building to improve music facilities for faculty, students and the community.

"At SMC, we have been and will always be committed to providing opportunities for motivated men and women to be able to grow and be their best by participating in clubs, participating in teams, band and ensemble," Brewer said. "Room To Grow will provide better spaces for our outstanding wrestling program and also for our music students."



Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Southwestern Michigan College celebrated five years of athletic success with a grand opening ceremony for the wrestling expansion to the Charles O. Zollar Building.

The SMC Men's Wrestling team returned to action in 2022 after a 30-year hiatus and has won four straight MCCAA championships. This season, the men's team placed fourth at the Great Lakes Districts on February 22 and finished 17th overall at nationals. The women's team placed 23rd overall at Nationals in its inaugural season. SMC is the first and only college in Michigan and just the 30th in the country to offer NJCAA Women's Wrestling.

Miracle believes the expanded wrestling facility will bolster the school and set a precedent for other programs to follow.

"Although this room is directly used for your school and your programs, it is so much more to so many other people," she said. "It's not just about this school. I don't know if you guys have heard of the phrase 'a rising tide lifts all boats' but that's what this is and that's what you guys are doing. You guys are the rising tide and so you guys are setting a standard and a precedent that other programs and schools need to follow and so I'm really grateful to see it and to witness it."

Pleasant thanked the student athletes in attendance for their hard work and dedication, which helped make the expansion a reality.

"Our mission only makes sense because of you," he said. "You're why we wake up and come to work each day and that mission is what ultimately attracted me and my wife to this special place – knowledge for all, the full college experience, accessible education – but what struck me almost immediately when visiting campus was the commitment to excellence. This facility is just another place that we can point to that reality. This facility adds to the student experience, and the extracurricular experience that we know has a lasting impact, just like the experience we have in the classroom.

"We know that these two things go hand in hand and complement one another."

SPLIT

From page B1

"She's just a mentally tough person," Kozinski said about Heflin. "One bad pitch or a good hit against her isn't going to affect her on the next pitch."

Kozinski was asked if Heflin is her number one pitcher.

"We're blessed to have a lot of pitching," the Eddies coach said. "We have three senior pitchers and one freshman and they just really back each other. We have two lefties and two righties."

In the opener, an unlucky bounce benefited the Vikings in an 8-5 win.

Holding a slim 6-5 lead in the top of the seventh inning, Niles' McKenna Albright hit a deep fly ball to center field. The ball hit off of Hulett's glove and over the fence to give the Vikings an 8-5 lead.

"It was a tough game to lose," Kozinski said.

Kozinski's squad had pulled within 6-5 after getting a two-run single with two outs from Jamison in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Jamison also had some strong moments on the mound as a reliever in game one, as she struck out eight and walked none over four innings. The long ball hurt her, as she also gave up a two-out, two-run homer to Emerlin Bailey in the fifth inning. That blast gave Niles a 6-3 lead.

"She's got a killer curve and a killer rise," Kozinski said about Jamison, who also collected three hits in the opener. "Those are her two go-to pitches. She doesn't come off the field. If she's not pitching, she's at second or in the outfield. She's a key player for us."

Edwardsburg took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first after getting a two-out, two-run single from Pulling.

Niles quickly took back the lead in the top of the second after getting a two-out, two-run double from Morgan Clanton.

A two-out RBI single from Brynn Young pulled the Eddies within 4-3 in the third inning.

Young and Pulling each had two hits in game one for Edwardsburg. Hulett singled, walked twice and stole two bases.

NILES 8, EDWARDSBURG 5

Niles	**121**	**020**	**2—**	**8**	**9**	**1**
Edwardsburg	**201**	**002**	**0—**	**5**	**10**	**1**

Morgan Clanton (W); Tori Pulling (L, 5 K's), Olivia Jamison (4, 8 K's).
Niles: Hits – McKenna Albright 2, Emerlin Bailey 2. HR – Bailey, Albright. 2B – Clanton. RBI – Clanton 2, Albright 2, Bailey 2. Runs – Aalaiya Kirschbaum 2.
Edwardsburg: Hits – Olivia Jamison 3, Pulling 2, Brynn Young 2. HR — Jamison. RBI – Jamison 2, Pulling 2. Runs – Hulett 2, Jamison 2. SB – Hulett 2.

EDWARDSBURG 11, NILES 1

Niles	**000**	**01—**	**1**	**4**	**4**
Edwardsburg	**405**	**02—**	**11**	**9**	**3**

Elkhart Truth Photo / J. Tyler Klassen

Edwardsburg's Kendall Hulett watches a pitch sail high during Wednesday's doublheader split with Niles.

Clanton (L), Madi Knight (2), Clanton (3), JJ Reed (4); Kaya Heflin (W).
Niles: 2B – Kirschbaum.
Edwardsburg: Hits – Jamison 2. HR – Hulett. 2B – Young. RBI – Hulett 2, Pulling 2, Gracie Reid 2. Runs – Jamison 2, Dylan Sieggreen 2.
Records: Niles 1-5 (1-3 Wolverine Conference), Edwardsburg 3-1 (3-1 Wolverine Conference).

NIYO

From page B1

"I feel like that (speech) was probably the defining moment that we knew we had to do it – for the school, for the alumni and for the players that came before us that got so close," said Will Tschetter, the fifth-year senior who had more invested in the program than anyone on Michigan's roster. "And this championship is as much theirs as it is ours."

Monday's triumph over UConn, a program that was vying for its third national title in four years, was the first for a Big Ten school since Michigan State won it all in Indianapolis in 2000. But it also ended a string of heartache for the Wolverines, who'd lost their last four NCAA finals – in 1992 and '93 with the Fab Five, as well as in 2013 and 2018.

John Beilein was the head coach for the latter two in that list. And the man who'd helped revive Michigan's dormant hoops program nearly two decades ago was courtside for Monday's finale, too, beaming with pride about what this championship signified.

"I don't even know what to feel," said Beilein, whose Wolverines had ended a decade-long NCAA Tournament drought back in 2009, his second season in Ann Arbor. "You're a little envious, you know what I mean? But it's just a great thing for the university, and for Dusty and his program. … It's incredible what a great men's basketball program can do to a university. And this is a perfect place to do it."

They say there is a time and place for everything. But at the time Michigan found itself looking for a new head coach two years ago, it was Beilein's own sense of place that helped athletic director Warde Manuel land May, who'd become a hot commodity after taking Florida Atlantic to a Final Four in 2023. Beilein offered to sit in on the in-person interview in Fort Lauderdale, and he and May spent the evening together discussing the job.

"There were some rumors out there, you know, that Michigan was a football school and that we weren't interested basketball," recalled Beilein on Monday night, as the maize-and-blue confetti fell moments after the final horn. "And I just told him, 'Dusty, that's completely false.' I had four ADs, three presidents, and they were 100 percent behind me from Day 1."

Back then, it was the facility upgrades, including $75 million spent on Crisler Center renovations and a new player development center, that signaled the administration's support. Now it's an array of things, but particularly the financial backing necessary to compete in today's NIL era.

May, 49, estimates he spent a quarter of his time at FAU courting donors and boosters, and his first year at Michigan probably wasn't much different. Nimari Burnett, one of the holdovers from that 2023-24 roster, recalls May meeting with that team the day he was introduced as head coach, "and then he went right to work on the alumni and raising money for the school."

He had no choice, really. The basketball NIL budget was a paltry six-figure fund before May arrived, and Michigan was coming off not only a disastrous 8-24 season but also the football team's national championship. Needless to say, hoops was a tough sell.

But May quickly drummed up more money to build a competitive roster that exceeded expectations in his first season, more than tripling the win total and advancing to the Sweet 16. The advent of NCAA revenue sharing and a new contract for May – who used a coaching vacancy at Indiana, his alma mater, for leverage – helped push that budget above $10 million this season.

"We felt like there was a great upside with Michigan and their passion for athletics," said May, who also surrounded himself with a bright, young staff of assistants. "There are a lot of places that if you win, 'then we'll get it for you.' And there are other places that say, 'We'll get it for you so you can win.' Michigan was a little bit in between, where I think a lot of the academic institutions were, late to the NIL game for a number of reasons."

They're not just in the game now. though. They're winning at it, as May and his staff have proven to be shrewd investors in addition to their obvious skills with player development. The Year 1 success with twin-tower transfers Danny Wolf (Yale) and Vlad Goldin (FAU) paved the way for this season's frontcourt trio of Aday Mara, Morez Johnson Jr. and Yaxel Lendeborg, all of whom improved their NBA draft stock while singing Michigan's praises.

Yet it's the chemistry they all developed – "I can't even name one instance where we split even for a second," Tschetter says – that was the real marvel here.

"And I think it all starts with the culture, and that culture change when Dusty came to Michigan," said Nate Forbes, the founder and chairman of UM's Champions Circle collective. "I think it's everything. I mean, you get a guy like that, who I think is one of the best coaches in all of sports ... He just embodies everything we believe in as a university."

Belief in the basketball program should keep the money spigot flowing for May, whose 64 wins the last two seasons tied an NCAA record for a coach at a new school, matching John Calipari (2009-11) at Kentucky. And with May's affable approach and adaptable coaching style, the recruiting pitch likely will hit a much higher note now at Michigan, and not just in the portal.

May's first blue-chip prep recruit, Trey McKenney, is poised for a starring role next season after a terrific freshman campaign. And the Wolverines made another five-star splash last weekend when Brandon McCoy Jr., a coveted point guard from California, announced his UM commitment during the Fab Five "alt-cast" at the Final Four. That vaulted Michigan's incoming class to No. 2 nationally – between Duke and Michigan State – according to the 247 Sports composite rankings. And to many around the program, it was just another sign of what's to come.

"Once the resources started coming in, the sky's the limit," said Mills, smiling, as he admired the scene Monday night. "And I'll tell you what, this is not the only one they're gonna get. I think we're on the right track. It's dynasty-building time."

John Niyo is a columnist for The Detroit News.

VICTORS

From page B1

The Wolverines came in shooting freely and winning big. In each of their five tournament games, they broke 90 and won by 13 or more.

In this one, they didn't hit 70 and had to battle to the buzzer. But in almost every way, it was the prettiest of them all – the one that gives them what the Fab Five couldn't manage – namely, a natty.

"Nobody cared about stats the whole season," Cadeau said. "Nobody cared about nothing but winning. I'm just had to be part of that."

Style points aside, this was a championship built from outside – the best team money could buy.

All five Wolverines starters played college ball elsewhere, and all but Nimari Burnett came to Ann Arbor this season. That's the product of the transfer portal that May has shown no reluctance to use. His ability to form a makeshift group into a winner is still the value of a coach and a culture.

"They might be still calling us mercenaries, but we're the hardest-working team," Lendenborg said. "We're the best in college basketball, and we'll be one of the greatest ever."

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Hidalgo to return to ND for senior season

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Hannah Hidalgo announced on social media Thursday that she will return to Notre Dame for her senior season.

Hidalgo, who indicated after the Fighting Irish were eliminated by UConn in the Elite Eight that she was planning on coming back, posted a photo of herself wearing her Fighting Irish uniform with the caption "Run It Back"

"It'll be a different roster than it was this year, completely different, but we finally got over that hump," Hidalgo said after Notre Dame's 70-52 loss in the Fort Worth Regional 1 final. "We know that the people coming in next year, they're going to have to raise their level because we know what it feels like to get to the Elite Eight. And now we're going have to get over that hump. The same that we felt with getting to the Sweet 16 two, three times, and just wanting to get over that hump."

Hidalgo was an AP first-team All-America selection her first two years, but was a second-team pick this season despite winning ACC player of the year for the second straight season. She led Division I in steals (5.6 per game) and was third in scoring (25.2 points per game) along with averaging 6.4 rebounds and 5.3 assists.

Hidalgo has 481 career steals. Chastadie Barrs, who played at Lamar from 2015-19, holds the Division I record with 649.

Tony Gutierrez / AP

Notre Dame guard Hannah Hidalgo (3) steals the ball from UConn guard Kayleigh Heckel (9) in the Elite Eight on March 29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Tigers' Meadows hospitalized after collision with Greene

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Detroit Tigers center fielder Parker Meadows was sent to a hospital for overnight observation after he collided head-to-head with teammate Riley Greene as they converged for a fly ball on Thursday.

Greene made the catch, and Meadows landed on his back in a daze, barely moving with his hands pointed up and blood appearing on his face. After a few minutes, Meadows was able to sit up. Medical personnel slowly helped him stand and move toward a cart that was waiting to take him away.

"It's a terrible feeling. I still feel terrible," Greene said after the game against Minnesota at Target Field. "He hit my head. I don't know where I hit him, to be honest, but I just really hope he's OK."

Meadows had a concussion, manager A.J. Hinch said after the Tigers lost 3-1 to the Twins and were swept in the four-game series. The collision caused Meadows to bite the inside of his mouth, which led to the bleeding.

"We're going to get him checked out for everything, but this one worries me," Hinch said.

Josh Bell led off the eighth inning for Minnesota with a shallow fly to left-center that Greene appeared to be calling for as he and Meadows ran toward the ball. Meadows tried slowing up and backing off at the last second. But his face appeared to slam against Greene's head, sending both players tumbling to the grass.

Matt Krohn / AP

Detroit Tigers center fielder Parker Meadows is helped off the field after a collision with left fielder Riley Greene against the Minnesota Twins on Thursday in Minneapolis.

"It's a perfect tweener, and you have two guys who like to go and get it," catcher Jake Rogers said. "It's a scary thing."

Meadows has started 11 of 13 games in center field for the Tigers this season. Matt Vierling made the other two starts. Meadows went 0 for 3 on Thursday and is batting .250 with two extra-base hits.

The 26-year-old Meadows, who was a second-round draft pick by the Tigers in 2018, made his major league debut in 2023. He missed the first two months of last season with a nerve problem in his upper right arm. Then he missed more than a month with a shoulder injury and finished with a .215 average and a .621 OPS.

Anderson's 2-OT winner lifts Denver past Michigan in Frozen Four thriller

By MARK ANDERSON
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Kent Anderson scored from the slot at 7:25 of the second overtime to back up Johnny Hicks' 49 saves and lift Denver to a 4-3 victory over Michigan on Thursday night in a Frozen Four semifinal and keep alive the Pioneers' hoping of winning their third national title in five years.

The Pioneers (28-11-3), a No. 2 regional seed, play Wisconsin (24-12-2) in Saturday's championship. They will try to extend their record to 11 titles.

"I don't score many goals, so this is ranking up top so far," Anderson said. "That means everything to play in this national championship game."

Michigan (31-8-1) had hoped to make its first championship appearance since 2011 and win its first championship since 1998. The Wolverines – who outshot the Pioneers 52-26 – also were trying to tie Denver for most overall championships.

They had hoped to take the next step this weekend, having reached the Frozen Four for the fourth time in five years.

"It's hard to have it be over," Michigan coach Brandon Naurato said. "What these seniors have done for this program, it's really special. You can tell a little bit from the outside, but if you're in that room and all the conversations we had with these guys, they changed the program."

John Locher / AP

Denver defenseman Kent Anderson, right, celebrates after scoring against Michigan in the second overtime of a semifinal game in the NCAA Frozen Four men's on Thursday in Las Vegas.

Denver's Clarke Caswell sent the game into overtime with a goal and also had an assist. Kyle Chyzowski and Cale Ashcroft also scored, and Hicks – a freshman – set a personal high in saves.

Hicks, who entered this game leading the nation with a 1.12 goals-against average and .958 save percentage, stayed in the game after taking a nasty hit early in the third period when teammate Eric Jamieson made contact with Michigan's Malcolm Spence on a rush to the net.

"He's a battler, he's unfazed – he was our best player tonight," Pioneers coach David Carle said.

Josh Eernisse, Jayden Perron and T.J. Hughes each scored for Michigan, with Hughes' goal giving the Hobey Baker finalist 179 career points, tops among active players. Jack Ivankovic saved 22 shots.

The Wolverines were on the verge of advancing to the final when Perron scored from the right point with 8:58 left in regulation. That goal came on the power play, the nation's top-ranked unit that entered the game by converting 31.6 percent of its chances.

Denver, however, kept alive its season when Caswell redirected a shot from Garrett Brown from the goal line with 2:46 remaining in regulation.

Neither team scored in the first overtime, though Pioneers winger Rieger Lorenz hit the crossbar. Teammate Boston Buckberger later had his left hand badly bloodied when it was stepped on, but he played through it.

Michigan outplayed Denver through the extra sessions, outshoooting the Pioneers 21-8, including 13-3 in the second OT.

"We stuck with it throughout the whole game," Anderson said. "Our belief didn't change when we were down one in the third."

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

Girls soccer
Monday's results

DOWAGIAC 6, BERRIEN SPRINGS 0

Goals — Johannah McDonald 4, Riley O'Konski, Jimena Sanchez.
Assists – O'Konski, Lucy Hughes.
Shots on goal – Dowagiac 17, Berrien Springs 4.
Saves – Dowagiac 4, Berrien Springs 10.
Records – Dowagiac 2-1-1, Berrien Springs 1-2-0.

Girls tennis
Tuesday's results

NILES 6, EDWARDSBURG 2

Singles — 1. Cheyenne Small (Niles) d. Bella Hankins 6-0, 6-2; 2. Amelia Wright (Edwardsburg) d. Donna Babler 6-1,6-1; 3. Mia Abarca (Niles) d. Abby Ray 6-1, 6-2; 4. Hannah Shull (Edwardsburg) d. Bella Castillo 7-5, 6-2.
Doubles – 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (Niles) d. Nathalie Dufour-Greta Day 6-1, 6-1; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlet Thalman (Niles) d. Jenna Peterson-Kendyll Wallace 6-4, 7-5; 3. Norah Rogers-Kennedy Holloway (Niles) d. Onna Letter-Reece Kaplon (Edwardsburg) 7-5, 6-1; 4. Kennedy Holloway-Bella Ladesma (Niles) d. Mikayla Shepherd-Braidy Hunsberger 6-3, 7-5.

Softball
Tuesday results
First game

BUCHANAN 6, BRIDGMAN 3

Buchanan	010	041	0	—	6	9	0
Bridgman	011	100	0	—	3	9	1

WP – H. Legault 4k. LP – J. Payne.
Top hitters – Buchanan:
2B: R. Berry 2 2b, 2 RBI; M. Ely 2b, 3 1b; HR: T. Heller 1b, HR, 2 RBI; K. Singleton 1b, 2 RBI. Bridgman: C. Ernsberger 2b, 2 1b, RBI; R. Paveza 2 1b; A. Ruff 2 1b, RBI; S. Rodriguez 1b, RBI.

Second game

BUCHANAN 6, BRIDGMAN 5

Buchanan	200	021	0	1—	6	7	3
Bridgman	000	500	0	0—	5	6	0

WP – H. Legault. LP – R. Paveza.
Top hitters – Buchanan: C. Weinberg 2b, 2 1b, RBI; R. Berry 3b, RBI; M. Elly RBI; L. Atkinson 1b, RBI; K. Singleton 1b, RBI; T. Heller RBI. Bridgman: N. Smith 2b, 2 1b; C. Dargus 1b, RBI; C. Ernsberger 1b; R. Paveza 1b; B. Berndt RBI.

Thursday's results
First game

EDWARDSBURG 11, BUCHANAN 8

Edwardsburg	101	105	0	3 —	11	11	3
Buchanan	002	060	0	0 —	8	4	3

WP – O. Jamison. LP – A. Villaire.
Top Hitters – Edwardsburg: O. Jamison 2b, 1b, 2 RBI; B. Young HR, RBI; K. Hulett HR, RBI; K Flanery 1b, 2 RBI; G. Reid 1b; M. Doncilovic 1b; K. Coleman 1b, 2 RBI. Buchanan: H. Griffin 3b, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg 1b, RBI; R. Berry 1b; A. Berry 1b; T. Heller RBI; H. Legault RBI.

Second game

EDWARDSBURG 14, BUCHANAN 5

Edwardsburg	605	03	—	14	3	3
Buchanan	300	02	—	5	10	1

WP – M. Heflin. LP – A. Villaire.
Top hitters – Edwardsburg: K. Hulett HR,2b, 5 RBI; M. Heflin 2b, 3 1b; T. Pulling HR, 4 RBI; E. Zache 2b, RBI; G. Reid 2 1b; 2 RBI. Buchanan: C. Weinber 2b, 1b, 2 RBI; H. Griffin 2 1b; K. Singleton 2b, RBI; H. Legault 1b, 2 RBI; M. Ely 1b; R. Berry 1b; A. Berry 1b; A. Pressler 1b.

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Executive Director

University of Notre Dame du Lac has an opening for Executive Director in Notre Dame, IN, responsible for overseeing operational processes and identifies opportunities for process improvement. Master's Degree in Political Science or related field of study and 7 yrs. of exp. in related occupation. Required: 5 yrs. of exp. with programs that have international dimensions and scope at an education institution; 5 yrs. of Exp. in academia and research at an education institution; 5 yrs. of project management exp. at an education institution; 5 yrs. of exp. managing budgets and financial resources at an education institution. Any applicant who is interested in this position should apply via email to Pam Byrne at pannis@nd.edu referencing this position and posting.

ESTATE SALE BY THE LAKE
APRIL 16 & 17 10-4, 18TH 10-2
1051 Sylvan, Benton Harbor, MI

FURNITURE & DECOR- White Leather sectional w/matching chair, 2 Upholstered sofas, reclining chair, glass coffee & end tables. Vintage square coffee table, Dining rm set w/burnt orange leather/wood chairs. Large size blonde Queen size bedroom set, 2 twin beds w/Simmons mattress, Day bed w/ Sealy. Wicker and metal Indoor patio furniture, desk's, Modern and Shabby chic lamps, art work, Curio cabinet, book shelves, Murano art glass collection and Beach Decor.
KITCHEN ITEMS-Pyrex, Corning & Fire King dishwares, Pottery Barn dishes & dish sets, wine glasses. Kitchen Aide- Stand Mixer & pasta maker, toaster, Knife set's w/blocks, lots of name brand small appliances and serving and catering items. Tables full of Kitchenwares, Utensils and name brand small appliances (Cuisinart, Ninja and lots of Kitchen Aide)
MISC- lots of Costume Jewelry, New Mens Watches (Gruen, Movado, Timex divers watch) Closets full of newer & Vintage designer clothes, hats, shoes & purses. Men's xxl shirts, suits, shoes and ties. Bedding and linens, Office supplies, desk & laptop computers, lots of flat screen TV's, Sewing Machine, supplies and Scrapbooking misc. Cordless Vacuum and lots of misc Holiday and Christmas.
GARAGE ITEMS- Cement bird bath, yard decor, power tools, shelving, rubbermaid, hand & garden tools. Golfing items and decor misc.

Lots of great Vintage and Name brand items
Don't miss this great sale.
See Estatesales.net for updates, info and pictures.

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FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS

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0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CASS

CREDITORS NOTICE

FILE NO.
2025 - 242-DE

ESTATE OF: HERMAN WAYNE CHRISTY, Deceased
Date of Birth: April 4, 1947

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The Decedent, Herman Wayne Christy, who lived at 70145 Sheridan Drive, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112, died May 30, 2025.
Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Casey A. Evans, named personal representative, or to the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085-1183 and the named personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date April 4, 2026

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr.
Attorney
Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120-1310
(269)683-8300

Donna Christy
Petitioner
c/o PO Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-280-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Estate of: Donna Joy O'Keefe, Decedent
Date of Birth: 08/18/1937

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Donna Joy O'Keefe, died 09/10/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dawn O'Keefe White, personal representative, or to both the probate court at Law and Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

John David Gardiner, Bodman PLC P72641
Attorney
99 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-205-3123

Dawn O'Keefe White
Personal Representative(s)
1470 Post Road
Hortense, Georgia 31543
312-420-2592

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 43RD CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF CASS

Case No:
2026-0000000006-CZ
Hon. MARK HERMAN

TIMOTHY GRIGALANZ,
Plaintiff,
V.
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC, KENNETH ALAN STRICKLAND,
Defendants.

ATTENTION: KENNETH ALAN STRICKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN, 43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CASS COUNTY. CASE NO. 2026-0000000006-CZ. A civil action has been filed against you, Kenneth Alan Strickland, by Plaintiff, Timothy Grigalanz The nature of the proceeding is a lawsuit seeking damages and equitable relief related to a real estate transaction and mortgage foreclosure, alleging fraud, procedural defects, and other claims.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you are required to answer the complaint or take other action permitted by law within **21 DAYS** after the last date of publication of this notice, If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this Court.
Plaintiff: Timothy Grigalanz 70335 Martin Rd Edwardsburg, MI 49112.
IT IS SO ORDERED.
Dated: 03/23/2026
/s/ HON. MARK HERMAN (P34735) 43rd Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-0149-DE-R

Court address:
811 Port Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
Court phone no.
269-983-7111

Estate of Caroll Ann Stuckey, deceased
Date of birth: 06/17/1940

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Caroll Ann Stuckey, died 06/26/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Judy Wolff personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/07/2026

Attorney: John R. Colip
Bar no. P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

Judy Wolff
Personal representative(s)
1001 Shotgun Lane
Millsap, TX 76066
940-682-5903

Abandoned vehicle auction
April 16, 2026 at 8:30 AM

2016 Chevrolet
Vin 2GNALCEK6G6126685

Contact Road Runner towing and recovery for viewing location & times 269-429-5080 Bidding starts at acquired fees & social distancing. Rules still apply.

Classifieds Make A Cash Connection!

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Berrien

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Case No.
2026-0188-DE-M

Estate of:
Norma Ruth Truesdell
Date of birth: 06/12/1944

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Norma Ruth Truesdell, died 07/14/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to, Kenneth C. Truesdell, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St. St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 04/06/2026

Peter W. Smith P22999
Attorney name **Bar no.**
423 Sycamore St., Ste 102, PO Box 67
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, State, Zip
269-683-3300
Telephone no.

Kenneth C. Truesdell
Personal representative
811 N. 13th Street
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, state, zip

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
25-000299

Court address Court & telephone no.
Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031

Estate of: Martin A. Gavin
Date of birth:* PII Ref. No. 1

TO ALL CREDITORS:**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Martin A. Gavin, died 11/02/2015. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kathleen Gavin, personal representative, or to both the probate court at Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/06/2026

Jeffrey R. Holmstrom P29405
Attorney name **Bar no.**
830 Pleasant St., Ste 100
Address
St. Joseph, MI 49085
City, State, Zip
269.983.0755
Telephone no.

Kathleen Gavin
Personal representative
2606 W 113th Street
Address
Chicago, IL 60655
City, State, Zip
312.513.5137
Telephone no.

PEOPLE DO READ SMALL ADS!

0900 LEGALS

WED MAY 13 @ NOON
Abandoned Vehicle Auction
Auction Location Millin Towing of 611 Wayne St., Niles MI Register at 11:45am
CASH ONLY!

***2002 TOYOTA SEQUOIA TAN** 5TDBT48A12S105960
***2003 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE BLACK** 3GNEK13T53G267007
***2003 GMC SIERRA 1500 BLUE** 2GTEK19V831340252
***2003 INFINITI G35 BLACK** JNKCV54E03M212510
***2004 GMC ENVOY BLACK** 1GKDT13S442312252
***2008 DODGE CHARGER WHITE** 2B3LA53H48H261584
***2008 TOYOTA RAV4 SILVER** JTMZD31V285107539
***2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE RED** 1G1PC5SB7E7405619
***2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX TAN** 1GNALBEK3FZ102048
***2016 CHEVROLET EQUINOX BLUE** 2GNALBEK6G6209432
***2017 CHEVROLET MALIBU BLUE** 1G1ZE5ST6HF230804

Abandoned Vehicles sold as is with no guarantee! No knowledge about condition. All vehicles must be paid for and removed on the day of auction. Listing subject to change depending upon Secretary of State documentation and redemption. Millin Towing reserves the right to bid.

Silver Creek Township
March 26th, 2026
Special Meeting Minutes
Summary
The Meeting was called to order at 9am.
Roll Call: Present- Supervisor Braman, Clerk Honn, Trustee Stockwell, Trustee Barnes. Absent- Treasurer Behnke.
Minutes & Bills & Claims were approved.
Board discussed several upcoming contracts. The Board approved the CCSO contract, Special Appropriation resolution, the General Appropriations Act for 2026-2027, a check for Indian Lake Fire Dept in the amount of $400,000, and a check for $400,000 for the Sister Lakes Fire Dept. Public comment was offered and heard.
Meeting adjourned at 9:41am.

Silver Creek Township
March 31st, 2026
Special Meeting Minutes
Summary
Clerk Honn called the meeting to order at 12pm. Roll Call: Present- Clerk Honn, Trustee Barnes, Trustee Stockwell. Absent- Supervisor Braman, Treasurer Behke.
Motion to approve the line-item budget transfers for the Public Safety Fund in the amount of $20,000 was approved.
Motion to approve the line-item budget transfers for the General Fund in the amount of $6,897.41 was approved.
Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm

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SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 06, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Lynn Marie Clark, a single woman Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank, successor by merger to FMB Community Bank Date of mortgage: June 30, 1995 Recorded on July 20, 1995, Liber 593, on Page 185, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on July 21, 1998 in Liber 669, on Page 782 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Thousand Eighteen and 72/100 Dollars ($2,018.72) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: COMMENCING ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION FOUR, TOWNSHIP SEVEN SOUTH OF RANGE SIXTEEN WEST, AT A POINT 1372 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE WEST 116.2 FEET; THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 375 FEET; THENCE EAST 116.2 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 375 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING Commonly known as 2743 White St, Niles, MI 49120 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1588637 (03-28)(04-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ray Bloomer, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: November 22, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 7, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $98,790.92
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Wayne, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing North 1127.28 feet from the Southeast corner of the North Three Quarters of the East Half of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 5 South, Range 15 West; thence West 436.14 feet; thence South 277.28 feet; thence East 436.14 feet; thence North 277.28 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 53702 Glenwood Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047-7423
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 28, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1588221 (03-28)(04-18)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on APRIL 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Bernice L. Crawford, a single woman, to The CIT Group/Sales Financing, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, Mortgagee, dated November 9, 1998 and recorded November 12, 1998 in Liber 681, Page 1291 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Lehman ABS Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Asset-Backed Certificate Trust, Series 2001-B, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Six and 50/100 Dollars ($18,306.50).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on APRIL 29, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Calvin, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
The East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, excepting therefrom, the South 1105.5 feet thereof. Also excepting therefrom, the North 11.65 5/8 chains thereof.Also excepting therefrom, Beginning 6.65 5/8 chains South of the Northeast corner of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West; thence South 20 rods; thence West 80 rods; thence North 20 rods; thence East 80 rods to the point of beginning.Also excepting therefrom, The North four (4) Rods of the south Fifty-one (51) Rods of the East half of the Northeast quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan.Also excepting therefrom, The North ten (10) Rods of the south forty-seven (47) Rods of the East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan.Also excepting therefrom, Commencing 51 Rods North of the Southwest corner of the East half of the Northeast quarter; thence North 264 feet; thence East to the Section Line; thence South 264 feet; thence West to the point of beginning. Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West.Also excepting therefrom, Part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, described as: From the Northeast corner of said Section 13, measure North 89 degrees 25'20" West, along the North line of said Section, 1328.03 feet to the Northwest corner of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of said Section; thence South along the East Eighth line of said Section, 769.32 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 89 degrees 25'20" East, 182.00 feet; thence South 125.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 25'20" West, 182.00 feet to the East Eighth line of said Section; thence North along the Eighth line, 125.00 feet to the point of beginning.Also excepting therefrom pursuant to the partial release recorded in Liber 1029, Page 832, FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 13, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST, MEASURE N88 DEGREES 53'06"W, ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE, 1327.37 FEET TO THE EAST EIGHTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE MEASURE S00 DEGREES 50' 15W, ALONG SAID LINE, 894.32 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE S88 DEGREES 53'10"E (PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS S89 DEGREES 25'20"E) 182.00 FEET; THENCE N00 DEGREES 50 15 E (PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS NORTH) 125.00 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 23.3125 ACRES OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE S88 DEGREES 53' 10" E ALONG LINE, 466.56 FEET; THENCE S00 DEGREES 50'15" W, PARALLEL WITH THE EAST EIGHTH LINE, 371.42 FEET; THENCE N88 DEGREES 53'10" W 648.56 FEET TO THE EAST EIGHTH LINE; THENCE N00 DEGREES 50'15"E, ALONG SAID LINE, 246.42 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
64277 Union Rd, Vandalia, Michigan 49095
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: March 28, 2026
File No. 26-002985
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (03-28)(04-18)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM a.m./p.m. on April 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert L Saxton of Cass County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 19th day of September, 2013, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on the 11th day of October, 2013, Liber 1067, Page 1885, of the Cass County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $31,137.87 plus accrued interest at 7.99000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of LaGrange, in the County of Cass and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 14 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 15, EXCEPT THE SOUTH 1 ROD, BLOCK 1 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, ORIGINAL PLAT, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF. ALSO THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT NUMBER 16; AND 1 ROD OFF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT NUMBER 15; ALL IN BLOCK 1 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREO Commonly known as: 311 East Jefferson Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031 Tax ID: 14-041-115-015-00 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exception. Dated: March 28, 2026 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email:bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 26-000111-1 (03-28)(04-18)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 20, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by David Wyatt, an unmarried man, original mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems as Nominee for Milend, Inc, dated March 8, 2024, and recorded in Liber 1243 Page 481 in CASS County records, Michigan, and assigned to Planet Home Lending, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on July 22, 2025 in Liber 1263, Page 91, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Six-Hundred Fifty-One and 63/100 dollars ($194,651.63). Said premises are situated in the Township of Jefferson, County of Cass, State of Michigan to wit: Part of the North half of the Northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 7 South, Range 15 West, Jefferson Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: From the North quarter corner of said Section 31, measure South 89 degrees 47 minutes 45 seconds East, along the North line of said Section 1326.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 45 seconds East, along said North line, 156.50 feet; thence South 0 degrees 22 minutes 35 seconds East, 454.77 feet; thence North 89 degrees 55 minutes 15 seconds West, 156.50 feet; thence North 0 degrees 22 minutes 35 seconds West, 455.11 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 27134 Deerfield Lane, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112 Parcel No.: 14-030-031-409-95 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: April 4, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2510005 - Wyatt, David (FHA) - DA (04-04)(04-25)

Justice Dept. investigating NFL for potential anticompetitive practices

By JOE REEDY and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

The Justice Department is investigating the NFL for potential anticompetitive practices, according to a government official.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday, said the investigation is "about affordability for consumers and creating an even playing field for providers."

The investigation was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

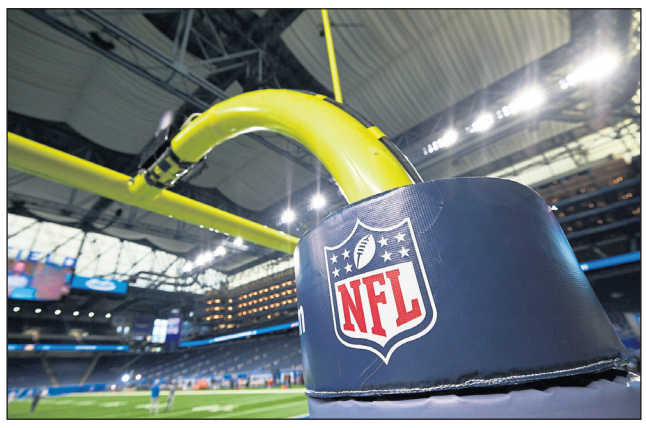
The NFL has not received a notification that the league is being investigated, according to two other people with knowledge of the situation. Those people spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak on possible legal matters.

The investigation comes amid increasing federal scrutiny of the amount of money fans are paying to watch sports on television. The Federal Communications Commission, for example, is seeking public comments on the ongoing shift of live sports from broadcast channels to streaming services.

The NFL said in a statement Thursday that over 87 percent of its games are available on broadcast television, including all that are played in a team's local market.

"The NFL's media distribution model is the most fan and broadcaster-friendly in the entire sports and entertainment industry. The 2025 season was our most viewed since 1989 and reflects the strength of the NFL distribution model and its wide availability to all fans," the league said in its statement.

Utah Sen. Mike Lee, chair of the Senate judiciary subcommittee on antitrust, competition policy, and consumer rights, wrote a letter to the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission on March 3 urging them to review whether the NFL's distribution methods are in line with the Sports Broadcasting Act, which grants limited antitrust immunity to allow teams to collectively license game broadcasts to national networks.



Rick Osentoski / AP

In this Aug. 13, 2021, file photo, the NFL logo is displayed on a goal post pad during an NFL preseason game between the Buffalo Bills and Detroit Lions in Detroit.

"The modern distribution environment differs substantially from the conditions that precipitated this exemption. Instead of a small number of free broadcast networks, the NFL now licenses games simultaneously to subscription streaming platforms, premium cable networks, and technology companies operating under different business models," the Republican senator wrote. "To the extent collectively licensed game packages are placed behind subscription paywalls, these arrangements may no longer align with the statutory concept of sponsored telecasting or the consumer-access rationale underlying the antitrust exemption."

Lee said in his letter that football fans spent almost $1,000 on cable and streaming subscriptions. Forbes estimated the cost of watching every NFL game via streaming last season at $765.

The NFL aired games last season on CBS, NBC, ABC/ESPN/ESPN+, Fox, NFL Network, Amazon Prime Video, Netflix and YouTube TV.

The league averages nearly $11 billion per season in revenue from its media deals. That could increase since the sale of Paramount to Skydance Media allows the league to renegotiate its deal with CBS.

The rights deals go through 2033 with most outlets and 2034 with ESPN. The league has an opt-out clause after the 2029 season, which it is likely to exercise since 83 of the top 100 broadcasts last year were NFL games, according to Nielsen.

The Sports Broadcasting Act exemption passed in 1961 applies only to broadcast television. Courts have ruled in the past that it does not apply to other media, including cable, satellite and streaming.

The law includes a rule allowing blackouts of local games, which still applies to out-of-market packages sold by the league. The NFL ended local TV blackouts, which applied to games within 75 miles of a team's market if they did not sell out 72 hours before kickoff, after the 2014 season.

Last year, the House Judiciary Committee requested briefings from the NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB on whether antitrust exemptions should still be granted for coordinating their broadcast television rights.

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